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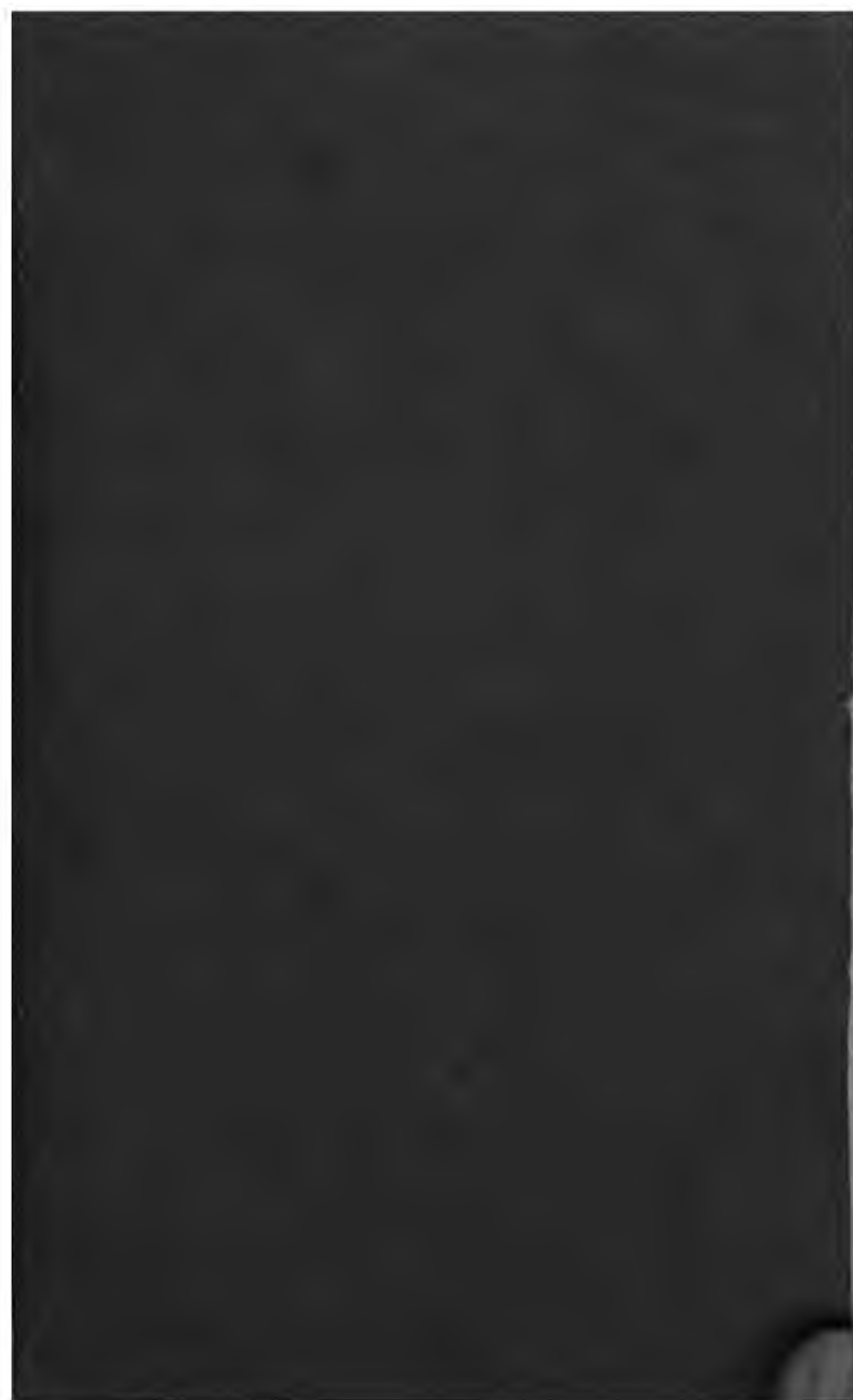
History... Abingdon

1798









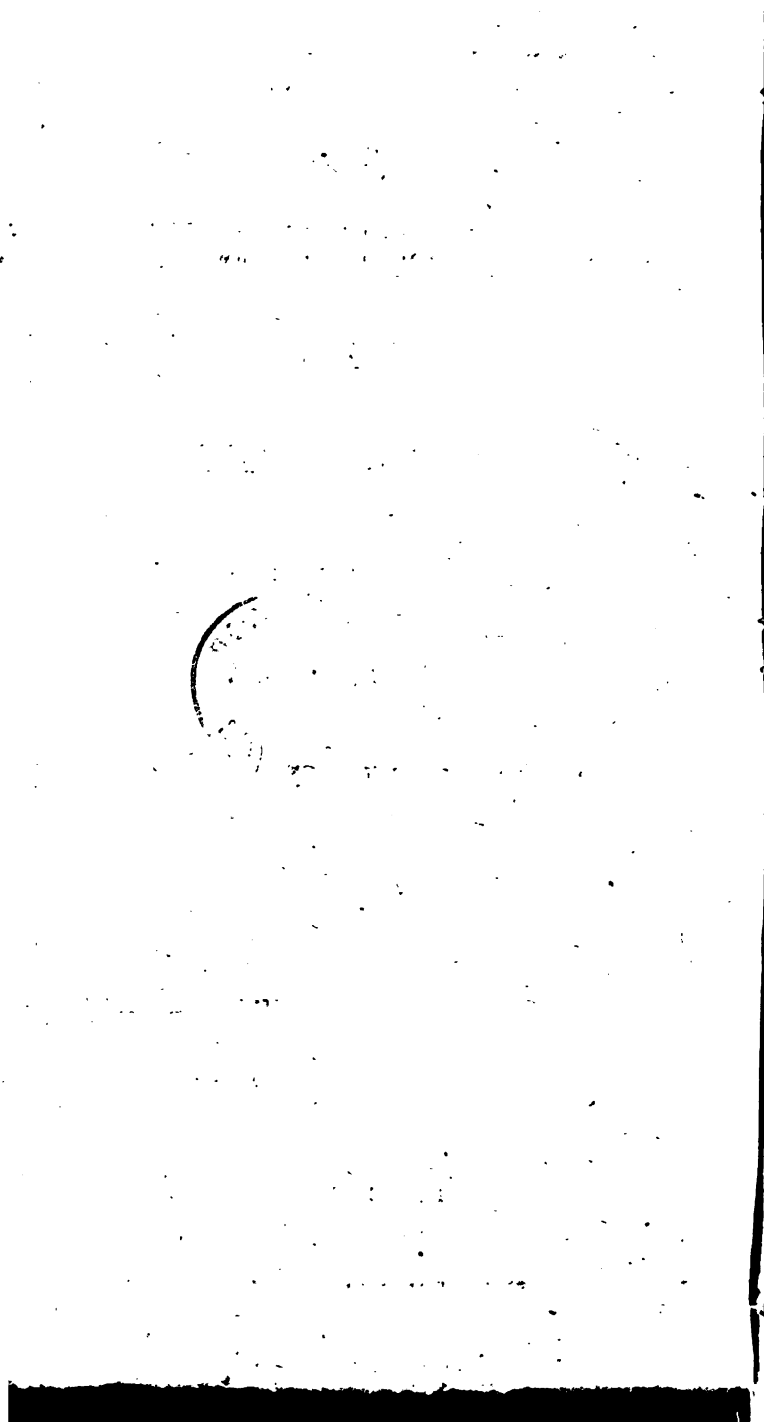
August from St. George's

THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES,
OF THE
TOWN OF
ABINGDON,
BERKS.

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1798.

(PRICE THREE-PENCE)

B. C. 1798



THE
HISTORY
OF
ABINGDON.

IT is evident that the name of **ABINGDON** is derived from its once famous **ABBEY**, before the building whereof, it was called **Sheovesham**, this Monastery was of the Benedictine order, and founded by Heane, Nephew to Cissa, Father to king Ina, about the Year 676. William the Conqueror kept Easter here, and left his youngest son Henry to be educated by Robert d'Oyly, a great benefactor to this place. Many men eminent for their quality, learning and virtue, lay interred in the Church of this Abbey; but all memorials of them were destroyed, with most of the buildings, at the time of the Reformation.

The

4 HISTORY OF ABINGDON.

The Town was made a free borough and corporation by charter from Q. Mary I. which was procured at the interest of Sir John Mafon, a native of it, and privy counsellor to that Queen; The government is by a Mayor, Bailiffs and Aldermen. The Mannor and Lordship were formerly the demefne of the Abbey, but are now vested in the Corporation. The Market-house is reckoned the finest in England, built on very high and grand pillasters of the corinthian order; over it is a large Guild-Hall, for the Assizes and other public business. The Market-days are Monday and Friday. There are six Fairs yearly, namely, June 13; St. James, (August 5); Sept. 13; St. Andrews, (Dec. 11); the first Monday in Lent; and the Monday after old Michaelmas-day.

In this Town are two Churches,
the

the great one, dedicated to St. Helen, is remarkable for its form of building, consisting of five parallel Ailes, with the Steeple at the North-east corner, so that the breadth of the whole from North to South, exceeds its length from East to West.

The smaller Church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, built by one of the Abbots, on the increase of inhabitants. The West entrance under the Tower, is worthy the observation of the Antiquary.

Both these Churches contain many ancient and curious Monuments, particularly in St. Helen's a very fine modern one for Mrs Hawkins, but their inscriptions brevity obliges us to omit, in order to insert the following antique Copy of verses from a tablet hung up in the hall of Christ's Hospital, in St. Helen's Church-yard, containing

6 HISTORY OF ABINGDON.

a quaint and interesting detail of the Benefactors, and building of Burford and Culham Bridges; whereby the great London Road was brought through this Town, which in some degree supplied the subsequent loss of the Abbey, by influencing travellers to take this rout from London to Gloucester, &c. instead of going, as before, by way of Wallingford and Dorchester, (in Oxfordshire) which Towns, especially the latter, are thought to have decayed in consequence.

Henrici, quinti Regis quarto revoluto

Anno Rex idem pontem fundavit utrumque,

Supra locum binum *Borford* dictam Culham-ford, &c.

Kinge *Henry* the fift, in the fift of his Raine, *fourth*

At *Burforde* and *Culham* did Bridges build twain

Between these two Places, but Abendon most

The Kynges high wayes now may be esely past

In M. C.C.C.C. and tenne more by fixe,

This so pious Werke did his Majestie fix,

Ye Passengers nowe who shal travaile this waye,

Before that ye minde for the Founder to praye.

Of

HISTORY OF ABINGDON.

7

Of alle Werks in this Worlde that ever were wrought
 Holy Chirche is chefe, there Children been cherisht,
 For be Baptism these Barnes to Blisse been ibrought,
 Thorough the grace of God, and fayre refreshed.

Another blisfed beinde is Brigges to make
 There, that the Pepul may not passe after greet Showes, *Showres*
 Dole it is to drawe a deed Body out of a lake,
 That was falled in a fount stoon, and a felow of oures.

Kinge *Henry* the *fourth* in his fourthe yere,
 He hath ifound for his folke a Bridge in *Berkeschire*,
 For Cartis with Cariage may goö and come clere,
 That many Wynters afore were marred in the myre; *marred*
 And som oute of her saddles flette to the grounde, *saddles (felle)*
 Went forthe in the Water wist no man whare,

Five Wekys after, or they were ifounde,
 Her Kyn and her knowleche caught hem uppe with care, *(acquaintance)*
 Then the Commons of *Abendon* cryed on the Kynge,
 Upon Dukes and Lordes that were in this Londe.
 The Kynge had hem begyne upon Goddes blessing, *upon*
 And make it also strong as they couthe with stone, lyme
 (or fonde.

Apön the day of Seynt *Albon* they began this Game,
 And *John Huchyns* layde the firste Stoon in the Kynge's
 Sir *Përis Befillis*, Knight, curteys and keend, (name,
 For his Fadir soule, and his Frendes, hedd as he scholde
 He gaf hem stonys inowhe into the Wekys ende,
 Also Mony as they nedid, feche hem if they wolde.
 Then crafty men for for the Querry made Crows of yre,
 Weges, and Wayes, and mony had hard *howys (hoos)*
Jaffray Barbur had pay hem her hyre.

Then

8 HISTORY OF ABINGDON.

Then must they have Mouldes to make on the bowys.

They askid for Cartes, and cast for her chafing,

founde

They founde out the Fundement and layde in large stones

They reysed up the Arches be Geometre in ryng. Gemetrie

(layyng)
(belyng)

With xi Laborers layyng at onys.

Ther was water inowhe, stone, lyme, and gravel,

Werkemen als wise as they coude fynde any,

And ever had the Barbour pay for her travel,

Til a M. mark be spende eche a peny.

Then the strengthe of the streame astoned hem stronge.

In labor and layyng moche Money was lost;

There loved hem a Ladd^e was a waterman longe,

He helpe stop the streame till the werke were afoze.

It was a solace to se in a somer seson.

C.C.C. I wyse workyng at onys,

iiii. and iiiii. reailyd be reson.

To wete who wrought best were set for the nonce.

The Peple proved her power with the pepyle (pickaxe)

The Mattoke was man handled right well a while;

With Spades and Schovells they made fash a schovell schovellis.

That men myght here hem thens a Myle.

Wives

Wives went oute to wite how they wrought, (know)

score

V. score in a Flock, it was a fayre sight;

In bord clothes bright, white Bred; they brought,

Cheek and Cheekes clerelych a dyght. (prepared)

These weren the Dyches i diged in full harde grounde,

And i cast up to arere with the wey,

So then they were iset with a quyk mownd

To holde in the Bank for ever and aye,

The Gode Lord of Abendon, of his Londe,

For

HISTORY OF ABINGDON.

For the breed of the Bridge xxiii. fole large, (breadth)

It was a greet focour of Erthe and of Sonde,

yt And ~~that~~ he abated the rent of the Barge.

An C. Pownde, and xvii. was truly payed.

hondes Be the hondes of John Hambryns and Banbery also,

For the Wage and the Barge, thus it must be sayed,

Thereto witnesse Abendon, and many oon moo.

For now is Culham Hithe, icom to an ende,

An al the contre the better, and no man the worfe;

Few Fölke there were coude that way Wende,

But they waged a wed, or payed of her Purfe. (left a pledge)

And if it were a Begger had breed in his bagge,

He schulde be figt soone ibid for to goo aboute;

And of the pore peyles the hireward wold habbe. (take for the tolls)

A hood or a girdel, and let hem goo withoute.

Many moo myscheves there were I say,

Culham Hithe hath causid many a curfe;

I blyffed be our Helpers, we have a better Waye, Waye

Without any Penny for Cart and for Horse.

Thus aworded the Kynge and the Covent,

And the Commons of Abendon, as the Abbot wolde;

Thus they were asid, and set al in oon assent,

That al the Brekynges of the Bridge, the Town bere bere (bear)

This was preved Acfe also in Parlement, (schalde:

In perpetual pees to have and to holde;

This tale is itolde in noon other extent,

But for Myrthe, and in memory to yonge and olde;

Nw every good Body that gothe on this Bridge,

Bid for the Barbour jentil Jeffray,

That clothed many a pore Man to bed and to rye, rye

And hathe holpe to Rentis to holde up this waye: waye

The

10 HISTORY OF ABINGDON.

wiche

The ~~which~~ Rentes right trewe Men have I taken on ^{honde} ~~bonde~~
And gacionly governed hem hereafter with ~~bonde~~ ^{bonde} but he

It schal be knowne openly, he doth hymselfe begyle,
I councel every Creature to kepe him from the Curse
For of this Trety's wil I no more telle,
And be not to covetous to your owne Purse,
For peril of the Peyns in the Pit of Helle.
Now God geve us grace to folowe Treuthe even,
That we may have a Place in the Blyss of Heven.

Amen.

✠. A. B. I. N. D. O. N. R. F. I.

Take the first letter of youre foure
Fader, with A, the werker of WEX WEX
and I, and N. the coloure of a Ass; set
them together, and tel mee yf you can,
what it is than.

Richarde Fannande, Iremonger,
hathe made this Tabul, and set it here
in the Yere of Kyng Henry the sexte Henry
XXXVI. te

This borough sends one Burges to
Parliament.

FINIS.



✓ from a good while
Who so have hem



